

59. (Amended) The method of claim 41 further comprising forming a channel within said [region of the myocardium] wall of the patient's heart.

B²
60. (Amended) The method of claim 41 further comprising forming a hole within said [region of the myocardium] wall of the patient's heart.

67. (Amended) A method of revascularizing a portion of a patient's myocardium comprising:

B³
positioning an electrode terminal in close proximity to a target site on a wall of the patient's heart; and

applying high frequency voltage to the electrode terminal, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to promote revascularization of myocardial tissue in a region of the target site by inducing the generation of new vessels in the region of the target site.

B⁴
76. (Amended) The method of claim 67 wherein the positioning step comprises positioning [further comprising] an electrode array including a plurality of electrically isolated electrode terminals in close proximity to the target site on the wall of the patient's heart.

REMARKS

Claims 41-87 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to discuss this case with applicant. Claims 51, 59, 60 and 76 have been amended to address the Examiner's 112 rejections on page 2 of the Office Action.

As noted in the Interview Summary of 4 November 1999, the Examiner has maintained that Bales teaches heart revascularization at column 12 where "smooth muscle coring" is disclosed. Applicant has further considered this reference in an attempt to decipher the term "smooth muscle coring". However, at this point, applicant has been unable to determine exactly what this term means in the context of the Bales reference. Thus, applicant